







RICHARD F. ALLEN
COMMISSIONER

Re-Entry Update

SEPTEMBER 2008

Institutional Pre Release and Reentry Services




Criteria for Participation

-  EOS Inmates
-  Probationers
-  Parole Candidates
-  SRP Candidates

If you are within 30-90 days of an EOS date, parole consideration date, SRP transfer date and are interested in learning about reentry services, please see your Institutional Reentry Designee.

Reentry Link on Web Site

A Re-Entry Link is now available on the ADOC web site. Information is available about the following:

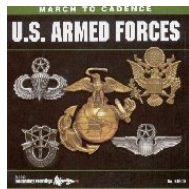
-  State agency and community resources available to assist currently incarcerated and newly released offenders
-  Re-entry initiatives in Alabama
-  General information about reentry services

If you have a family member or friend on the outside who is interested in learning more about reentry services in Alabama, please encourage them to visit the ADOC web site at www.doc.alabama.gov.

The reentry link is not intended to answer questions or provide information about early parole dates, scheduled parole hearings, annual reviews or personal inmate matters.

Armed Forces See Increase in Ex-Felons Enlisting

Article provided by: **Marty Angelo Ministries, Inc.**



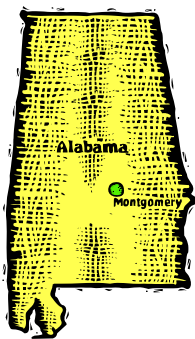
U.S. military enlistment of felons has doubled over the past three years due to a strong need for service abroad, according to the Michael D. Palm Center, a political think tank based in California. The group presented the information in a news release on Feb. 13 after requesting a statistical release from the United States Department of Defense. In the study, Michael Boucai, a law professor at Georgetown University, argues that "a more forthright, well-informed, and humane public engagement with the question of ex-offender enlistment could help promote the development of policies and programs for more effectively integrating ex-offenders into the armed forces."

While this is just one opinion on the matter, the facts speak for themselves: There clearly have been changes in enlistment procedures and regulations with the enlistment of convicted felons jumping from 824 in 2003 to 1605 in 2006. The military allows these felons to enlist under what is known as the "moral waivers program," which allows the military to examine the circumstances in which the crime was committed in order to determine the stability of the individuals and evaluate their likelihood of serving their country morally and honorably. Such considerations may be taking into account the age of the person at the time the crime was committed, the possible motives for which the crime was committed, and an interview process. The military allowed for the enlistment of 43,977 individuals who were not convicted felons, but were found guilty misdemeanors allowed to enlist under the moral waivers program.

58,561 illegal drug users were also enlisted through such waivers. With such high numbers of criminals enlisted, many military analysts have begun to hypothesize as to why so many offenders are attempting to enlist. Boucai said he thinks that "Increasingly, as ex-offenders are statutorily barred from one occupation after another, the job market death sentence is imposed by law." Combining the troubles offenders face when re-entering society and the increased need for troops to serve in both Iraq and Afghanistan, it is no wonder that the numbers of past offenders serving in the armed forces is rising.

In the army alone, the number of waivers granted for felonies rose from 411 in 2003 to 901 in 2006. Some lawmakers are seeing this increase in the percentage of charged offenders as a positive way to substantially reduce the probability of repeat crimes through lessons of discipline while also helping to replenish the need for troop increases. Others fear, however, that "lowering standards" may endanger other troops or lead to a lack of morale among other recruits who were not involved in criminal behavior prior enlisting. These two conflicting viewpoints put the Department of Defense in a difficult position, especially with the need for troops continuously rising. Marine General James Conway announced that the United States Marines will see a troop increase of 27,000 by the year 2011.

Alabama I.C.E. (Isolate the Criminal Element)



Alabama I.C.E., a state-wide network of federal, state, and local law enforcement along with community organizations, has been working to combat firearms violence in Alabama for more than seven years. Currently, in Alabama, there are approximately 600-700 felony inmates released each month. In an effort to deliver the Alabama I.C.E. message of intolerance to gun violence to every Alabama inmate, an Alabama I.C.E. Re-Entry Video has been distributed to every correctional institution in the State of Alabama. The message of the video is to advise convicted felons, at the stage of "near release" to the community, about the Alabama I.C.E. message of "hard time for gun crime" and to educate inmates about federal firearms laws and the potential consequences of being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

Scarlett Singleton
Assistant United States Attorney
Northern District of Alabama



For more information about viewing the *Alabama I.C.E.* DVD, please see your Reentry Designee.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Submitted by: Mr. Holbrook, Psych Associate, Holman Prison

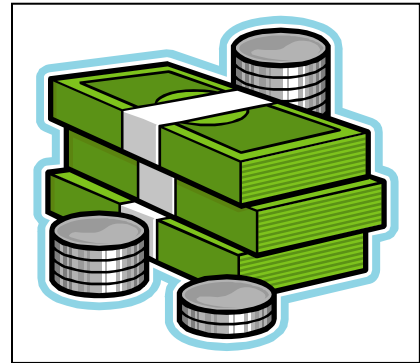


One set of skills all inmates need in a reentry program is concerning Financial Management. This 143 page workbook begins with a pretest with 76 multiple choice questions that community residents should know about finance. The average score on the pretest for inmates is about 50 %. Upon completion of the course the inmate can be expected on average to earn a score of 80 % on the post-test. Richard.Holbrook@doc.alabama.gov is where you can get the answer sheets for these test questions. The workbooks themselves can be attained from the Kilby Print shop for about \$3.50 a piece depending upon how many are ordered. Contact David Freeman at Kilby for an estimate.

The workbook includes:

1. Introduction to Financial Management
2. Understanding Your Paycheck
3. How to Do Your Income Taxes
4. Budgets
5. Checking and Savings Accounts
6. Credit and Loans
7. Borrowing, Purchasing and Debt Collection
8. Transition to a Halfway House, Family and then, How to Rent an Apartment
9. Transportation, Purchasing, and Operating a Car, Legally
10. Automobile and Medical Insurance and Finding Transitional Medical and Mental Health Care
11. Investing
12. Social Security
13. Appendix with Social Security Card Application, Social Security Statement, Birth Certificate Application, and Tax forms.

Inmates get to write checks and balance their Transaction Register for example. Many exercises of this type are available. An inmate leader or staff member can read the material out loud and assist in directing the discussion through the workbook.



It is best if every inmate has his own workbook to work in. However, the exercise pages can be copied in a separate workbook, copied on a copy machine and issued to each participant. Having the workbook for each participant in class will help the reading of the program. The workbooks can be taken up if needed and used for multiple reentry classes in the future. Therefore, sufficient numbers of workbooks for a class is needed, such as 50 for example. However, the inmate must have the exercise sheets to practice the exercises and having a workbook per participant is actually cheaper than copying in the long run. It is intended that the participant take the workbook home with them because of the forms included.

Other material such as an individual Certificate for Financial Management is available from Richard Holbrook.

Please address your questions to Richard.Holbrook@doc.alabama.gov.



R U Really Ready for Release? *John O'Malley, Co-Founder - First Stop-Second Chance (www.firststopsecondchance.org)*

Don't let prison become a way of life, a revolving door with no way out, when upon release you can successful reenter society by adhering to the right way. R U interested? Read on.

Respect yourself and others, and take responsibility for your actions past, present, and future, after all, you had a choice on the journey traveled. Look around, how many twisted arms do you see?

Reinvent yourself and your mindset while incarcerated, don't wait until it's too late.

Relearn the good things in life, about you, and new skills which will prepare you for the reentry journey down the road.

Reentry to be successful takes more than a list of service providers and do-gooders, it takes serious commitment and a carefully thought out action plan on your part.

Refrain from revisiting the people, things, and actions which contributed to your incarceration, avoid ugly thoughts, words, and deeds.

Realize that religion or spiritual guidance will give you the needed fortitude to succeed in the darkest hours, and know you will never be alone, so embrace a spiritual lifestyle.

Recover from any substance or abusive habits which lead you down the road of sorry and hard knocks, the causes of your detour in life.

Release any angry you feel toward yourself, others, and/or the system, set a new life course founded on seeing the brighter side of life even on gloomy days.

Resources are out there but don't expect everyone to care about you until you start caring about them, and in part, you do so by showing others that you truly want to reenter society successfully.

Rejoice in every reentry success along the way, however small, as you deserve a pat on the back once in awhile, even if it's just you doing the patting.

Remain resolute in your commitment, don't revert back to the old ways, the easiest road is seldom the best road to travel.

Remember, a little self PR (Positive Reinforcement) goes a long way to smooth out a bumpy road. Start each day with positive thoughts about you and the journey to

Roundabout, what I am trying to say is that it is easy to blame other people or "the system" for our current situation in life. Success in life is seldom if ever achieved by oneself, nor is failure. Many people have and will influence the journeys you travel in life, some good and some bad. The latter always leads to a most difficult and troubled life.

When the time comes, I hope you find the reentry journey worth traveling. However, let us be honest, it will take a special person, a tough person, a committed person to turn their life around upon release. The journey is a little scary for many, but with a focused dedication, a can do attitude, and an unwavering commitment to show others you're a keeper, it can be done. If you are not ready, get ready, the journey is mapped out above for your success.



"You can incarcerate a body but not the mind or soul, as salvation sets every man free."



